



St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

May, 2026

Pastor's Notes:

Do you believe that only LC-MS Lutherans will go to heaven?

No, absolutely not. I have never personally heard an LCMS pastor teach this, but I have heard from other people in the LCMS that they heard some pastor teach this at some time. Many pastors I have talked to have said laypeople in their congregation have heard this taught. If a pastor did teach that only LCMS Lutherans are in heaven then that was not teaching according to the scripture, the Lutheran confessions, or even the bylaws of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod!

It is possible that people misheard or misinterpreted something else a pastor said as meaning this. That just means that the distinction here needs to be taught more clearly. I will first address the false statement that only LCMS Lutherans will go to heaven, then I will address true statements that may have been interpreted that way.

False statement – Only LCMS Lutherans go to heaven

We cannot say that only LCMS Lutherans go to heaven because that would add LC-MS church membership as a necessity to be saved. There is no precedent for this in scripture. We are justified freely by grace through Christ Jesus:

even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:22-24)

Our salvation is not earned by what church membership we have. It is given freely by Christ because of His death and resurrection. We receive this grace by faith when we trust that because of Christ's sacrifice God wants to forgive and save us. We receive this grace in the preached Gospel:

and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47)

and baptism

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16).

People who are not LCMS Lutherans can hear the gospel of forgiveness of sins and hear the grace of Christ. People who are not LCMS Lutherans believe in Christ and are baptized. It is clear, then, that the work of any church membership in our salvation is rejected, Christ's grace is given freely to all who have sinned, and that grace is received by those who believe the gospel and are baptized, no matter where they are church members.

True (possibly misheard) statements

1. LCMS Lutherans, unlike other denominations, have pure doctrine.

This is a generally true statement. We are LCMS Lutherans because we believe that the Lutheran Confessions (Book of Concord) are the true exposition (teaching) of the Word of God in the Bible. Some denominations claim to teach the Bible, but misinterpret and teach falsely. Other denominations add their own ideas to the Bible. We don't have the space to get into all of these in this article. Whenever false teachings are added to the teachings of scripture, then there is danger to people's souls. False teaching may lead people to have faith in other things besides the work of Christ. Christians may also, by the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word, be able to discern and ignore the false teaching of their church and still be saved.

Therefore, just because a church has false teaching does not mean the people in it cannot be saved. At the same time, we are told by scripture that false teaching is dangerous and we want all true Christians to flee from it and go to preachers who teach the Word of God in truth and purity.

2. LCMS Lutherans have closed communion

LCMS Lutherans do practice closed communion because it is a Biblical practice. St. Paul says there should not be divisions among those who commune together (1 Corinthians 11:18). Those who commune together declare that we all have the same public confession of faith. That is, we all believe the same thing about what the Bible says, and we have joined together in this church (which is part of a denomination) in order to publicly declare that confession.

The practice of closed communion has nothing to do with internal faith of the person communing. The pastor cannot know anyone's heart, not even people in his own congregation. Only God knows the heart. The good thing for the pastor is he doesn't have to discern people's hearts, just their outward actions and confession. If someone is part of a different church that is not in fellowship with us, then they have made a public confession that there is a division between us. The pastor is not given the Lord's Supper to give to those who are divided from us, but for those who are in the fellowship he is called to serve.

Yet, as said above, just because someone is in a different denomination does not mean that they are not saved. Someone may be truly saved, believing in Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and still not permitted to commune at our altar at this time. We hope that if a person desires to commune with us they would also want to know and believe what we believe and join our fellowship. But if not, it will not and cannot directly affect their salvation, as said above.

Do you have any questions about things you heard in church, recently or long ago? Anything confusing in the Bible? Let Pastor know and your question may be covered in a future newsletter article.

Culver's Giveback Day June 18th 4-7 PM



Dine in or Drive thru at Culver's 15940 S.Farrell rd Lockport on Thursday June 18th anytime between 4-7 PM mention St Paul's Lutheran Church and 10 to 15% of proceeds will be donated to St Paul's

Join us for Worship

Every Sunday 9:00 AM Fellowship and Coffee following the service
10:40 AM Adult Bible Class and Sunday School

NEWS AND NOTES

Manna: Order forms are available on Sunday, May 3, orders with payment are due on May 10, and orders can be picked up on May 17.

May Mission Offering: Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry (maternity home)

Church Directory Photos: We will be taking photos for the church directory. They will be taken after the Sunday Service. Or if anyone wishes you may schedule a time convenient to you. Your photos will be available to you for your own use at no charge delivered by email or your supplied USB drive. For any question or to schedule please contact Allan Luzbetak in person or at 815-325-0010. **The deadline to get your photos taken will be June 1.**

Reminder - Doors will be locked for safety after the opening hymn for our Sunday services. The elder on duty will be monitoring the doors for anyone who might show up after they are locked. You can also ring the doorbell if you can't get in. Thanks for your understanding.

MAY EVENTS

Lunch with Pastor: The next Lunch with Pastor will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 11 am at George's Restaurant in Lockport.

Book of Concord – Book of Concord study will meet Sunday, May 31 at 6 pm.

Long Range Planning – Next long range planning meeting will be Saturday, May 16 at 9 am.

Pastor's Picnic

Sunday, May 24
(Memorial Day
Weekend)

Immediately following
service in the parsonage
back yard.

Fried chicken will be
provided. Sign ups for
sides and desserts
available soon.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Rummage Sale



Two Day Sale!

**Friday, June 5
(9 am – 3 pm)**

**Saturday, June 6
(9 am – Noon)**

**Saturday is fill a
bag deals and ½
price large items.**

It's time for some spring cleaning! Clean out your closets, basements, spare rooms, garages, and storage units. Bring unwanted treasures to St. Paul's for our rummage sale! Sales will go toward paying for the organ renovation.

Drop-off dates for donations:

Monday, June 1 (9 am to 3 pm)

Tuesday, June 2 (9 am to 3 pm)

Wednesday, June 3 (Noon to 6 pm)

Sign ups will be available soon to help with set up and running of the sale. Contact Laura Wetherbee for more information

Ascension Divine Service

**Thursday, May 14
6 pm**





Happy Baptismal Birthday

Marlene Barmann	May 1
William Countryman	May 1
Shirley Dymek	May 1
Julie Novak	May 6
Bill Rohder	May 9
Ruth Gerk	May 11
Don Chaney	May 12
Denise Pilz	May 13
Aliviah Popadowski	May 18
Jeremy Rahn	May 18
Oliver Over	May 22
Nora Mueller	May 25

Ashley Miller	May 2
Madelyn Nomura	May 4
Ashley Kantelberg	May 5
Kyle Mueller	May 8
Donald Rada	May 10
Pat Schoenbeck	May 11
Lucille Colegrove	May 12
Delores Meyers	May 13
Lois Velemir	May 13
Marcella Richmond	May 20
Mila Lo Dolce	May 21
Brandon Polinski	May 22
Dana Stasiak	May 23
Rachel Saxon	May 24
Kristina Wojciechowski	May 26
Gerald Hinkelman	May 27
Adriel Zavala	May 27
Sena Scheel	May 31



May 1, 1992	Greg & Elizabeth Miller
May 5, 2006	Derrick & Danielle Jimenez
May 9, 2009	Dave & Kristina Wojciechowski
May 11, 2004	Matthew & Heather Collier
May 11, 1968	George & Geri Robinson
May 19, 2007	Michael & Christina Saxon



May, 2026
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Lockport

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Sunday School/Adult bible class Manna order forms are available	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor at MID Pastors' Conference </div>	5 Pastor at MID Pastors' Conference	6 Pastor at MID Pastors' Conference	7 8 am Morning Prayer	8	9 8:30 am Trustee meeting 9 am Spring Cleanup Day
10 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Sunday School/Adult bible class Manna order forms with payment	11 8 am Morning Prayer 7 pm Elders meeting	12 8 am Morning Prayer 11 am Lunch w/Pastor @ George's 7 pm Church Council	13 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs.	14 Ascension of our Lord 9 am Circuit meeting at Our Savior Joliet 6 pm Worship Service	15	16 9 am Long Range Planning meeting
17 Sunday after Ascension 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Adult bible class Noon Family Lunch Manna orders ready for pickup	18 8 am Morning Prayer	19 8 am Morning Prayer	20 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs. 4:30 pm-7 pm – Bezold Hall in use	21 8 am Morning Prayer	22	23
24 Pentecost 9 am Divine Worship 10:30 am Pastor's picnic	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 11 am NICL	27 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs.	28 8 am Morning Prayer	29	30
31 Feast of Holy Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class/Sunday School 6 pm Book of Concord						



Children from the congregation with planter pots in celebration of Ascension at the April Family Lunch

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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